Crime in Trains

1942. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the official reports, one crime is taking place in every thirty minutes, two killings are taking place in a day in trains;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in the first quarter of 2006, there has been an increase of two hundred percent in the crime rate such as killings, theft, dacoity, etc., in trains; and

(c) if so, what the Railways is doing to contain this menace on the Board of Railway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. During the period from January to March 2006, in all 1777 cases of crime *viz.* murder, attempt to murder, dacoity, robbery, thefts, etc. were reported in trains over Indian Railways as against 2036 such cases reported in trains during the previous quarter *i.e.* October to December 2005.

(c) To provide better security to the traveling passengers in trains and passenger areas, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) Act, 1957 and the Railways Act, 1989 have been amended to enable the Railways, through the RPF, to effectively supplement the efforts of the State Governments in controlling crime on the Railways. The Railway Protection Force staff are being deployed to escort many trains and deployed in the passenger area to augment the efforts of the State Governments. RPF has also been empowered to deal with the minor offences affecting the train operations such as Alarm chain pulling, roof travel, touting, ticket less travel, unauthorized entry etc. (except Sabotage related offences under Sections 150 to 152) amending the Railways Act *w.e.f.* July 2004. The objective was to ensure that the State Police (Government Railway Police) get more man power and time to handle heinous offences such as Murder, Dacoity, Robbery, Rape etc. including Sabotage and Train Wrecking, under the provisions of Indian Penal Code, the Railways Act and other laws of the land.